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29 April 1980

Sub-Saharan Africa Report

FOUO No. 672



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SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

COMMENTARY ON RESISTANCE TO OLYMPIC BOYCOTT

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 5 March 80 p 89

[Commentary by Jean-Louis Buchet: "The Athletes' Revolt"]

[Text] The Soviets have Afghanistan, the Americans...the gold medal for ice hockey. And it was as heroes that Jimmy Carter received the authors of this exploit at the White House on 25 February. On 22 February at Lake Placid before a wrought-up public, they just managed to defeat the Soviet team, holder of the title for 20 years.

For this summit match, patriotic fervor was at its peak in the United States. The boys have won, they have deserved well of their country, the president-candidate, Jimmy Carter, is pleased with them and America with him. No one thought of asking the Afghan insurgents for their opinion on the USA's irresistible counterattack against USSR expansionism.

The publicity campaign organized around the hockey tournament, as well as the feats of the young American Eric Heiden (21 years old), who won five gold medals in speed skating, to some extent camouflaged the balance-sheet of these XIII Winter Games, concluded on 24 February at Lake Placid. A not very flattering balance-sheet, in fact, for the United States on the strictly sporting level. With 12 medals (6 of them gold), it was largely outstripped by the USSR (22 medals, 10 of them gold) and the German Democratic Republic (23 medals, 9 of them gold).

An American setback, again, with regard to the IOC (International Olympic Committee). Indeed, this venerable and dusty institution will not come out unscathed from the present crisis. But Lord Killanin, its chairman, has reaffirmed his opposition to the boycotting of the Moscow games. And the American Olympic Committee, which at first had yielded miserably, is rebelling in the face of the White House ukases.

The origin of this reversal, the positions taken by the athletes. An element which could be decisive in the battle going on around the summer games. Most of the American athletes who are preparing to go to Moscow have no desire to follow Jimmy Carter in this matter. We understand them:

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in high-level competition, one ages quickly. In the Los Angeles games in 1984, it will be too late for a number of them. Eric Heiden himself, the star at Lake Placid, has come out against the boycott. Also received by Jimmy Carter, he did not hesitate to say so to his president.

Other Western athletes have spoken their minds in the same vein, while the boycott opponents' camp gathered strength from international opinion. This is the case particularly in the Federal Republic of Germany, the fourth-ranking sports power in the world (after the USSR, the GDR and the USA). The Bonn government, which seemed at first to be following in Jimmy Carter's footsteps, is now hesitating. And the president of the French Republic, despite the pressures he is subjected to, has categorically reaffirmed that it is up to the athletes alone to decide.

From now until 24 May, the closing date for replies to the Moscow invitations, many things might change. All the more since the Soviets have more difficulties than anticipated in Afghanistan and since the Westerners seem finally resolved to make more serious proposals than boycotting the Olympic games.

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

'JEUNE AFRIQUE' PROJECTS ADVERTISED

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 5 Mar 80 p 51

[Article: "J.A. [JEUNE AFRIQUE] Group Achievements and Projects"]

[Text] The J.A. Group is beginning its third decade with the following assets:

Capital: brought up from 6 to 10 million French francs in 1980 (\$2.5 million).

Manpower: about 200 employees.

Turnover: about 100 million French francs in 1980 (\$25 million) for the group and its subsidiaries.

The JEUNE AFRIQUE Group publishes (in French):

1. Periodicals

JEUNE AFRIQUE, the only weekly inter-African magazine and the foremost third world periodical. Circulation is close to 200,000 copies per week, and distribution goes beyond French-speaking Africa to reach the Middle East and Europe, as well as the English-speaking countries.

JEUNE AFRIQUE is one of the principal weekly magazines in the French language.

ANNUAIRE DE L'AFRIQUE ET DU MOYEN-ORIENT [Yearbook on Africa and the Middle-East], in two volumes:

LES ARMEES ET LA DEFENSE [Armies and Defense] (published in April of each year).

L'ECONOMIE ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT [The Economy and Development] (published in October of each year).

Each volume is distributed in about 20,000 copies.

MARCHES NOUVEAUX [New Markets], an economic semimonthly intended principally for Africa and the Middle East, distributed also in close to 20,000 copies.

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WHO'S WHO for Africa and the Middle East (20,000 copies).

LETTRE D'INFORMATION 10/20/30 [Information Letter] (published on the 10th, 20th and 30th of each month).

All these publications are serving as a basis and model for publications in English, to be published, starting end of 1980, by an English Language Department of the J.A. Group.

2. Books

A collection of tourist guides or travel books which includes 40 titles, regularly reissued in French, English and German.

"Le Grand Atlas" of the African continent and national atlases.

Historical and general literary works.
Encyclopedias.

Projects for the third decade:

The J.A. Group has set up an International Development Fund (Finomi) and has begun studying the implementation in the 1980s of projects included in the perspective of what it has been agreed to call the New World Information Order.

In particular:
an inter-African daily,
a Third World press agency,
an inter-African radio station,
an advertising agency specializing in communications between Third World and industrialized countries,
new specialized periodicals,
an undertaking for the production of films and television programs,
an undertaking for film distribution (movie theaters and television).

The J.A. Group, the principal communications venture for Africa and the Middle East, intends to be the initiator and leader of these projects. But it cannot carry them out alone, because it intends to collaborate, in each field, with specialists. Because it can bear the cost of financing one or a few projects, but that the projects as a whole can be planned only in partnership.

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ZAIRIAN-ZAMBIAN COBALT AGREEMENT--Zaire and Zambia, the two main producers of cobalt in the world, have agreed to maintain their prices for the rest of the year at \$25 per pound (454 grams). In a common statement, the two countries expressed the wish to assure their customers concerning a stable and regular supply for the rest of 1980. Zaire hopes to produce 15,000 tons of cobalt this year as it did in 1979. Cobalt production for Zambia, which mined 3,000 tons last year, should reach 10,000 tons at the beginning of the 80's. The flow of cobalt, a strategic metal used in alloys for the space industry, has increased appreciably since 1978. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 22 Feb 80 p 451]

MOZAMBIQUE-ZAIRE COOPERATION--Mozambique and Zaire have decided to broaden the existing exchanges of information between the two countries. The decision was reached following a series of discussions in Maputo between Karl I Bond, Zairian minister of foreign affairs and his Mozambican counterpart Joaquim Chissano. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 4 Apr 80 p 826]

NIASSE REPORTEDLY IN LIBYA--Ahmed Khalifa Niasse, founder of the Hizboullahi, an Islamic party banned in Senegal, may have settled in Libya. Since he was in danger of being prosecuted for fraud in his own country, Ahmed Niasse wished to obtain political asylum in France, where he has been living since September 1979. However, faced with the reluctance of Paris, he may have chosen to follow the path of the malcontents, the road to Tripoli. [Text] [Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 27 Feb 80 p 38] 9174

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ANGOLA

OIL, DIAMOND PRODUCTION STATISTICS REPORTED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 22 Feb 80 p 426

[Text] Angolan agricultural production remains, since the departure of the Portuguese and the devastation, far lower than it was prior to independence. Thus, the 1978-1979 coffee harvest only amounted to 32,000 tons, as compared with 207,000 tons some years ago.

Petroleum, the crucial factor in the economy's recovery, in 1978 represented approximately 85 percent of the total exports and 60 percent of the state's resources. Production increased from 7 million tons in 1977 to 9 million tons in 1979; it is expected to double by 1985 with the opening of new wells and, in addition, prospecting offshore is continuing.

The diamond is the country's wealth; production of the nationalized DIAMANG [Angola Diamond Company] amounted to 700,000 carats for jewelry in 1978. During the year, by taking over the still-existing Portuguese interests, state participation increased from 61 to more than 71 percent; the Dutch share remained the same. Iron ore mining has been stopped since 1975. Alternately resumed and suspended, international traffic, which consists mainly of moving copper ore from Shaba and Zambia on the Benguela-Lobito Railroad, would constitute a regional stabilizing element.

In April, Africa-Textil, the textile complex began operations with a production potential of 16.5 million meters annually.

A new law on foreign investments modified the previous one and is more restrictive. These investments are desired in the context of the guidelines of development plans and by association in parastatal companies, with public interests or national private capital.

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ANGOLA

BRIEFS

ITALIAN EQUIPMENT FOR OIL SECTOR--SONANGOL, [Angolan National Petroleum Company] in collaboration with the Cabinda Gulf Oil Company, has just awarded a contract for 80 million French francs to the Italian company Nuovo Pignone to supply 14 turbo-compressor groups. These machines are vitally important for Angola since they will increase crude oil production from the Cabinda offshore oil wells by approximately 40,000 barrels a day. Nuovo Pignone will be responsible for supervising the installation of the compressors on three different derricks and getting them into operation at the Cabinda oil fields. The compressors will be used for gas lift, reinjection and gas recompression tasks. Nuovo Pignone (part of ENI, [National Hydrocarbons Agency] the Italian state petroleum and petrochemical group) has supplied specialized equipment for various derricks in the North Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. This order from Angola confirms this Italian company's ability to compete in the world market as a supplier of specialized equipment for offshore petroleum prospecting activities. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 22 Feb 80 p 458] 9479

DOS SANTOS ARRIVAL UNADVERTISED--Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, paid an official visit to Cuba for an undetermined stay on 17 March. This visit, the first by the chief of state since the death of President Agostinho Neto last September, had not been announced in Havana by the local press as late as the eve of dos Santos' arrival. It took diplomatic circles completely by surprise. This visit takes place at a time when thousands of Cuban soldiers--19,000, as quoted by the AFP from "a well informed source"--are still stationed in Angola to assist the MPLA against the rebellion by UNITA led by Jonas Savimbi. Cuba's assistance is also present in technical cooperation: 6,500 civilians occupy various positions in the country, with 2,300 of them working in construction and 750 in the teaching sector. Moreover, for 2 years, Luanda has been sending to Cuba 1,200 secondary school students, who follow courses based on the principle of the "school in the countryside" at the Isle of Pines, 80 kms south of Havana. They divide their time between studies and the harvest of citrus fruit. [Excerpts] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 21 Mar 80 p 703]

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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

FALSE RUMORS SAID 'AT ORIGIN' OF HASTY POLITICAL TRIALS

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 27 Feb 80 p 31

[Article by Siradiou Diallo: "Trial in Bangui"]

[Text] Although dictators are hard to overthrow, memories of them are proving even more difficult to erase. It is this way in Equatorial Guinea where, in spite of the public execution of Macias Nguema, a number of citizens are still convinced that he might be restored to life at any moment. Probably in the guise of a dangerous tiger. It is this way in Uganda where some of the inhabitants are beginning to wish for the return of the reign of Idi Amin Dada, because during that time "for all of that there was more order and security."

In the former "pearl" of the British African colonies, where the head of the government has already been changed twice since the departure of the terrible Idi Amin, popular fantasy is expecting to see the dictator come to the surface again, from one day to the next. Furthermore: since certain news bulletins let it be understood that the tyrant's airplane had disappeared from the Tripoli airport where it was being kept, the present Ugandan leaders themselves began to take the rumor seriously. And to worry.

But it was especially in the Central African Republic that, 5 months after the fall of Bokassa, the situation seemed to be the most confused. In spite of the presence of the French army, and the actual imprisonment of the ex-emperor at Abidjan, many Central Africans believe him capable of arriving in Bangui. And of coming back into power. From time to time, people say that they have recognized him at night threading his way through the poorly-lighted alleys of Kilometer-5, the working class district of Bangui. Or crossing the Ubangi River at the head of his troops.

These foolish rumors are undoubtedly the source of the great haste with which the political trials have just opened in Bangui, with a great deal of publicity. Having failed to obtain Bokassa's head, they want to exorcise his spirit by striking out at his former collaborators. Already, Dr Jean Bruno Dedeavode, one of the first to be judged by the criminal court sitting in the Omnisports Palace in Bangui (where the coronation of Bokassa I was

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celebrated), has been condemned to death. The son-in-law of the ex-ruler, he was accused of having, by order of his father-in-law, administered a deadly poison to a newborn infant. This was also true of Colonel J.-P. Inga.

Others will follow, such as Mrs Domitien, ex-prime minister, who was devoted to the dictator. Unless she is allowed extenuating circumstances. Because of her sex.

But even before they began, these trials were challenged. Why were only about 100 of the former collaborators arrested? And according to what criteria? Many people who were as deeply involved as they are not only free, but some are in power. The confusion of the present leaders is such that it was only under compulsion that they decided to arrest some of their former "friends."

Be that as it may, in Bangui as in Kampala, in Malabo as in Teheran and elsewhere, the successors of dictators will only be able to bury the legends of their predecessors by correcting the political, economic and often disastrous social conditions which they have inherited, as quickly as possible. Otherwise, it will be useless to wring the neck of the demon, or failing that, of his former loyal supporters. He will inexorably come to life again in the minds of the people.

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CONGO

FOREIGN MINISTER ON TROOPS IN CHAD, AFRICAN ECONOMY

LD171017 Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 16 Apr 80 p 34

[Interview with Pierre Nze, Congolese Foreign Minister, by Sennen Andriamirado: "The Chadians Have Opted for War"; date and place not specified]

[Text] JEUNE AFRIQUE: Pierre Nze, the Congo has recently lived through a painful experience. You dispatched some troops to Chad which were to serve as a peace-keeping force. And your troops left Chad as soon as war broke out. Is this withdrawal a setback for Africa?

Pierre Nze: This kind of experiment must not be judged too hastily. The idea of a neutral force was conceived incidentally--the Chad crisis necessitated the formation of a buffer force in which troops from the Congo, Benin and Guinea were to participate.

JEUNE AFRIQUE: And only the Congolese came.

Pierre Nze: Many countries found themselves in a difficult economic situation and every OAU member state had to make an exceptional effort. We ourselves were in a difficult situation at that time--civil servants had not been paid for 2 months--but we had made a promise at the time of the Lome agreements and we did our utmost to keep it.

JEUNE AFRIQUE: How much did it cost the Congo to dispatch 550 men to Chad?

Pierre Nze: We earmarked 900 million African financial community francs for the 1-year stay there.

JEUNE AFRIQUE: It has been asserted that there were some Cubans among the Congolese in Chad.

Pierre Nze: This is a provocation! We had no intention of having Chad occupied by anyone. The Congo has had its own army since 1963 and we dispatched only Congolese to Chad. Obviously we have Soviet, Cuban and French technicians in the Congo but since our troops were carrying out a mission

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within an OAU framework, it would have been a mistake to include any non-Congolese among them. This is common sense.

JEUNE AFRIQUE: Why did your troops leave Chad?

Pierre Nze: Because the Chadians decided not to become reconciled but to resume warfare. We were running the risk of becoming involved in a confrontation between various trends. Our camp was fired on and one of our soldiers was killed and some others wounded. We did not intervene.

JEUNE AFRIQUE: Could you have intervened?

Pierre Nze: How? By preventing one movement from fighting another? We were not in Chad to support one group against another. We were there to prevent the Chadians from confronting one another. However, they opted for confrontation.

JEUNE AFRIQUE: Chad keeps exploding. Will the rest of Africa not catch fire?

Pierre Nze: Africa has been badly affected by the international economic crisis, which will lead to such social tensions that upheavals in a number of countries are to be feared.

JEUNE AFRIQUE: Is this the reason why the OAU has called an economic summit, which is to take place in Lagos at the end of the month?

Pierre Nze: African heads of state have realized the seriousness of the crisis. And we sincerely hope that the Lagos summit will not merely provide an opportunity for expressing good intentions. Unless we take advantage of it to formulate a joint strategy and establish a joint front to ward off the economic crisis, we will all sink together.

JEUNE AFRIQUE: Does this mean that in your view the OAU has reached a turning point and should henceforth give economic matters priority?

Pierre Nze: Certainly. African states can no longer be classified as "progressive" or "moderate." The OAU must build a wall round itself and concern itself with the African economy. It is a question of survival. Unless it can adapt itself to the situation, I cannot see what use the OAU can be.

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EQUATORIAL GUINEA

SPAIN REGAINING CONTROL OF COUNTRY AFTER 12 YEARS

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 27 Feb 80 p 32

[Article by Francisco Vergara: "The Legacy of the Tiger"]

[Text] Six months after the fall of Macias Nguema (4 August 1979), Malabo looks like a phantom city. In street after street, the stores are closed. From time to time, a solitary automobile passes. No one laughs, no one dances. The cacao plantations on the outskirts of the capital are abandoned and overgrown with weeds. The harvest of 1979 was 10 times smaller than those in the years before independence.

The people who overthrew "the Tiger of Malabo" are satisfied with having replaced a dozen men at the head of the government. As for the rest, the repressive machine which caused the flight of at least 100,000 Equatorial Guineans (one-third of the population), the torturers and policemen who administered beatings to their heart's content, are today quiet and respectable citizens. A general amnesty was declared, and the 5,000 political prisoners of the old regime were released. The churches, closed in 1978, have been reopened, and the Catholic religion has made a strong comeback. Lieut Obiang Nguema, who overthrew his cousin, Francisco Macias, took an oath on the Bible, on 11 October 1979, when he was appointed president of the republic. Another indication: 70 monks were added to the Spanish experts who are going to put the educational system, formerly one of the most highly developed in Africa, back on its feet again.

Foreigners whose farms, plantations and properties were confiscated by Macias Nguema are beginning to return. Their properties will be returned if they promise to restore them to their former condition. However, the 7,000 Spaniards who were living in the country in 1968, at the time of independence, are not expected to return en masse. But in foreign policy, Equatorial Guinea is keeping its distance from the Soviet Union so that it can become reconciled with France and Spain, who are competing for influence.

The Russians Leave

On 1 January, the boats of the Soviet fishing fleet, which had exclusive rights in the Equatorial-Guinean territorial waters, left the port of Luba,

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in the western part of the island of Bioko (formerly the island of Macias Nguema and of Fernando Po). The loss was considerable for the USSR, where every week two Tupolev 154's went back and forth between Moscow and Malabo to drop off or pick up about 100 Russian sailors. With the help of France, which will furnish nets and outboard motors, the local fishing industry, which was forbidden to nationals, will be reestablished. Authorization [to fish], not exclusive this time, has been granted to Spain.

On the other hand, on 28 November 1979, cooperative agreements were signed in Paris with France, which will supply Equatorial Guinea with grants of 9 million francs, clearly more than the 600,000 francs of 1979. French cooperatives--three at the present time--should soon be much more numerous. Among the companies which have an interest in the country are Elf-Aquitaine and the Office of Geological and Mining Exploration (BRGM).

But Spain seems determined to "go all out." It is the Cabinet of the head of the government, Adolfo Suarez, and not the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is interested in Equatorial Guinea. The Spanish government has granted 97 million francs in credit and some 59 million in grants. Every day, special airplanes bring supplies and essential foodstuffs.

Spain's future investments are estimated at \$150 million. On 23 January, Malabo announced that three mixed enterprises will be formed with nationalized Spanish companies. They will be involved in oil and uranium prospecting and development, and in mining exploration in general. A semi-nationalized bank has also been established, with the Foreign Bank of Spain, which will be responsible for the management of foreign investments and trade. The new currency which will retain the name of the ekuele, will be at par with the Spanish peseta.

It is also the Spanish economists who have been given responsibility for developing a recovery plan set up thanks to 500 experts (also Spaniards). During his visit to Malabo, in December 1979, King Juan Carlos may even have promised to investigate having Spain take over the country's budgetary deficit in the years to come.

And so, nearly 12 years after gaining her independence, Equatorial Guinea is returning to a status which the authorities call "privileged relations with Spain." But after a decade passed under the iron rule of the "Tiger of Malabo," who could say that it's a step backward?

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ETHIOPIA

BRIEFS

MEDICAL AID FROM CUBA--At the end of February, Ethiopian Minister of Health Tefera Wonde praised the role of the Cuban civilian mission in Ethiopia, especially of the medical personnel. There are 291 Cuban medical personnel, including 129 physicians, currently in Ethiopia. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 7 Mar 80 p 579].

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GABON

RECEIPTS, OPERATING EXPENSES IN 1980 BUDGET NOTED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 22 Feb 80 p 449

[Text] In our 28 December 1979 issue, page 3684, we gave the total amount of the 1980 Gabonese budget, which was set in receipts and expenses at 313.7 billion CFA francs.

This total is broken down as follows for the receipts (billion of CFA francs):

Tax receipts	140.14
Custom duties	57.60
Revenues from state lands	69.03
Other non-tax receipts	4.37
Loans	42.26

It should be noted that loans have decreased, in comparison with the two preceding fiscal years: 1978--63.38 billion CFA francs; 1979--67.3 billion (estimated). The 1980 budget is just about equal to that of 1979 (313.8 billion CFA francs in receipts).

Expenses are broken down as follows (in billions of CFA francs):

Operating expenses	101.70
which includes	
Wages	38
Goods and services	49.87
Transfers	13.83
Public debt	120
Development	92

There has been an increase in development expenses: 92 billion in 1980, as compared with 83.4 billion in 1979 and 80.9 billion in 1978. The Transgabonese alone will receive 31.8 billion in 1980, which should make it possible to complete the work plans of connecting Booue with Owendo by railroad by late 1982.

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Operating expenses increased much less rapidly - 101.7 billion in 1980, as compared with 89.4 billion for the preceding fiscal year.

Similarly, there is a decrease in debt servicing; it reached a record amount in 1979: 120 billion in 1980, as compared to 140 billion in 1979 and 116.7 billion in 1979.

The new debt amounted to 224.2 billion CFA francs in 1977 (for reimbursements of 60.6 billion.) It should decrease to 42.4 billion in 1980 (for reimbursements of 80.2 billion) as compared with 67.3 billion (and 100.7 billion in reimbursements) in 1979.

The following is the change in operating expenses in the major sectors:

	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Defense	14.4	18.6
Education and Culture	21.3	23.9
Health and Social Action	7.1	8.7
Economic administrations	6.2	7.1
General administration	5.8	7.1

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GABON

BRIEFS

FRENCH ADMINISTRATIVE COOPERATION--The French secretary of state in public works, Mr Jacques Dominati, signed, on 4 March in Libreville with Mr Jules Bourdes Ogouliguende, state minister of Gabon in public works, an agreement of cooperation concerning an increase in French aid to Gabon in the field of public administration: on the one hand, it involves a declaration of intention; on the other, an agreement linking the National School of Administration (ENA) of Libreville to the International Institute of Public Administration to train and to refresh high officials of the Gabon administration. Before leaving Libreville, Mr Dominati was granted an audience by President Bongo. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 14 Mar 80 p 631] 9589

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GUINEA

BRIEFS

CCCE RAILROAD, ELECTRICITY LOANS--The Central Bank for Economic Cooperation has just granted two loans to Guinea: A loan of 24 million francs (approximately 109 million syllis) will help finance a program to acquire rolling stock for the National Office of Railroads of Guinea. This latter, in addition, will receive technical assistance. A study will be undertaken to improve the network and its management. A loan of 40 million francs (approximately 182 million syllis) will be appropriated to the restoration of the dam and of the hydroelectric power station of the Great Falls, which is proving to be urgent, as well as to the electricity distribution network of Conarky. The intervention of the Central Bank is part of a total program which will benefit equally from financial assistance from the World Bank Group and from the Federal Republic of Germany. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS 14 Mar 80 p 621] 9589

FRANCO-GUINEAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION--The 29 February French JOURNAL OFFICIAL announced the establishment of Franco-Guinean Friendship Association, whose objective is to "promote understanding and friendship between the peoples of France and Guinea. A temporary bureau was formed, which will be reconstituted at the first general assembly. [Excerpt] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 4 Apr 80 p 808]

USSR MILITARY ADVISORS' DEPARTURE--The last two USSR military advisors have left Guinea. This is comprised among the measures adopted by President Sekou Toure vis-a-vis the USSR following the condemnation of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan by the conference of Islamic countries in Islamabad. Moreover, Guinea has restricted the USSR diplomatic personnel and has vetoed any reconnaissance flights on its territorial waters. [Text] [Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French No 1006, 16 Apr 80 p 24]

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MALI

AGRICULTURE COULD PROVIDE SOLUTION TO ECONOMIC MALAISE

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French No 999, 27 Feb 80 pp 38-39

[Article by Sennen Andriamirado]

[Excerpts] Rumors in Bamako

Bamako. Wedged between the Niger River and the table lands, crushed under the weight of a permanent layer of hot humid air, the capital is an oven, ready to explode, in every sense of the word. Some 600,000, perhaps 800,000, inhabitants are literally swarming: social tension is all too apparent. The inhabitants of Bamako have lost their sense of humor.

There are more government employees there and consequently more frustrated people--they too have had to wait to be paid, for 2 months in the case of certain state enterprises. Teachers, after a strike of overzealousness, turned to a slowdown. They are telling themselves that if, this time, salaries were paid at the last possible moment, next month, they will have to wait once again. And they say, 15 days in February, 3 weeks in March, a little more in April.... President Moussa Traore came back on 11 February from his trip to Iraq and Syria with emergency funds: \$5 million, according to information leaked to us. More or less enough to pay the salaries for 1 month. The next time, they will have to find another solution.

In that atmosphere, the wildest rumors are circulating. A few government employees have finally begun to wonder whether these delays in payment are not part of a general offensive against the intellectuals. That is false. Ordinary policemen right up to the staff of the president of the republic have also waited. Other government workers claim that they have not been paid because "the funds have been embezzled." Nothing of the sort.

"There Is No Money"

At the Ministry of Finance and Commerce, tired of being bothered and having to give out technical explanations, which were all the more complicated because they were untrue, those in charge finally admitted: "There is no money, that is all. We are looking everywhere and seeking out all possible

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sources, people ought to understand." But first the "people" would have to be told. And, the extent of the financial difficulties of the state is not being told. A government employee does not hesitate to say: "Members of the Executive Bureau of the party (Democratic Union of the Malian People, the only party) are touring the regions. They should inform the people about our problems." So the malaise remains.

And yet, information does exist... Everything is in the 1980 budget: 77.811 billion Mali francs of expenditures, of which 55.143 billion will go toward salaries. Investments? None are foreseen for this year. In the National Assembly, the minister of Finance and Commerce, Mr Mady Diallo, has warned: "The state, which is having a difficult time paying the salaries of its employees, can no longer function. If urgent remedies are not forthcoming, we will be faced with social unrest." And in February 1980, the tension is real. Less because there are no investments than because salaries were late in arriving. Until May, this irregularity will be the rule. After that, there will be a little breathing space because we will be able to use tax revenues.

Outside the circle of financial experts, it is not known that the budget deficit will rise this year to 6.215 billion Mali francs. It is even less known that the economic situation is serious. Hit hard by the international crisis, just as are many African countries, Mali does not have the means to cope. Oil prices continue to climb, prices for equipment are skyrocketing, while prices for the products Mali exports (cotton, peanuts, livestock, karite almonds and textiles) are falling. According to a report of the IMF (International Monetary Fund) which appeared on 22 January 1980, the trade balance has continued to worsen: a deficit of 64 billion Mali francs in 1979, a forecast of 118.4 billion in 1980. Draconian measures have already been taken so as to reduce the deficit to 75.9 billion Mali francs. But this year, Mali cannot avoid importing grain and agricultural machinery.

Imagination Required

What can be done? Actually, no one really knows.

For example, few Malians know that their agricultural potential is enormous. Few people in high positions have seen or inspected the broad plains which, between the Niger River and the Mauritanian border, hold the promise of future prosperity. They can be irrigated, even if now they are not. But they are empty. Once more, there is a lack of information. At the Niger Office, which is in charge of developing the region, all they say is that it is one of the two or three state enterprises which is "functioning." That is true. But they do not tell us that beyond the enterprise itself, Mali has everything to gain by concentrating its efforts on the Niger River, which runs through some 1,700 km of our territory.

General Mobilization?

In reality, the means exist. Mali has competent personnel in the public and the private sectors. The money is also there, in the hands of businessmen; but only government officials are investing in agriculture--less

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because of a desire to develop the region than to make ends meet. Most wealthy individuals are turning their back on agriculture.

Businessmen might well become major agricultural forces, even within the Niger Office. They could exploit, under the colonial system, 100 or 1,000 hectares and make a profit. But two problems remain to be solved. First, the law establishing the Niger Office did not provide for the participation of "capitalists" of this sort. Then too, even if the businessmen go into agriculture, who will be responsible for the irrigation projects and the development of the land? Many people answer, the army. With a major share of the budget (more than 16 billion Mali francs in 1980), the army has the materiel, as well as the manpower.

Perhaps that would be a solution: a general mobilization, called for the purpose of, and directed toward, accelerating the development of agriculture.

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MALI

BRIEFS

ROAD CONSTRUCTION FINANCING--Thanks to Arab aid, Mali will soon be able to finance the construction of an important highway linking the cities of Mopti and Gao, 556 km from each other. The Arab Bank for African Economic Development (BADEA) has just granted the Malian government a loan of \$10 million. It will be paid back over 20 years (with a 5 year grace period), at an annual interest rate of 4 percent. Nevertheless, this loan constitutes only 13.7 percent of the total cost (\$78.66 million) of the Mopti-Gao highway project, for which other sources of financing have already been found: The Islamic Development Bank (\$8 million), the OPEC Special Fund (\$7 million), the German Reconstruction Credit Bank (KfW 17.28 million). Koweit, Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi are said to be willing to make up, along with the Malian government, the difference in financing. In addition to the other advantages, the construction of the Gao-Mopti highway is indispensable for the exploitation of the uranium and phosphate deposits discovered in the north of Mali. That region is also said to contain sizeable oil deposits. [Excerpts] [Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French No 999 27 Feb 80 pp 46-47] 8956

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MOZAMBIQUE

PRODUCTION STATISTICS, 1980 BUDGET REPORTED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 22 Feb 80 p 426

[Text] The socialist, self-management takeover of the Mozambique economy has been expanded. After the nationalization of coal mining, the sugar industry and maritime shipping, it extended this year to the cement and building materials industries and most of the former Portuguese companies. Nevertheless, the economy is recovering slowly and productivity in the state companies is still far from the objectives set.

The year 1979 can be considered a stage of consolidation. Sugar production for the harvest now going on is estimated at 214,000 tons (compared with 179,500 tons for the preceding year and 280,000 tons before independence); the cotton harvest shows an increase of 33 percent. There has been a substantial improvement in industrial activity (a 20 percent increase in 1978 and, most likely, a 15 percent increase in 1979) over the very low level during the period of armed struggle.

The budget for fiscal year 1980 was set at 15 million contos (a 25 percent increase) in receipts and 37 million (a 100 percent increase) in expenses, of which 20 million will be allocated for equipment; the greatly increased estimated deficit is expected to be offset by foreign aid. (One conto equals 1,000 escudos which equal approximately 130 French francs.)

Mineral prospecting will be increased and a program to plant 10,000 hectares of eucalyptus is scheduled to be completed by 1981.

Among the principal projects is the Mapai Dam; its completion should make the development of the Limpopo Basin (452,000 square kilometers) possible.

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MOZAMBIQUE

NEW PLANNING MINISTER DEPICTED AS PRAGMATIST

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French No 1006, 16 Apr 80 p 30

[Excerpt] Marcelino dos Santos, 49, minister of planning and "Number Two" official after Samora Machel, reportedly was the most spectacular victim of the "new course" adopted by Mozambican policy.

The man who was at Machel's side in the FRELIMO from the very beginning of the armed struggle was regarded as the leader of the "hard line" and an advocate of a close alliance with the Soviet Union. His departure on Thursday, 3 April--preceded by the "dismissal" of three more ministers--constitutes proof of Samora Machel's desire for moderation and relaxation following the settlement of the Rhodesian problem.

Dos Santos' successor, Mario Machungo, now occupies the posts of both minister of agriculture and planning, thus becoming the country's second "strongman." Technocrat Machungo, an economist and a pragmatist above all, has initiated a policy of decollectivizing the countryside since his appointment as minister of agriculture in October 1978, replacing the Mozambican "kolkhozes" by small cooperatives in which the private sector plays a part.

Machungo is anything but orthodox. There is no doubt that a wind of revisionism will now blow on the entire national economic policy. Similarly, it is certain that dos Santos' departure must be interpreted as still another blow--following Mugabe's victory in Zimbabwe--to Soviet policy in Southern Africa.

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MOZAMBIQUE

BRIEFS

DUTCH ASSISTANCE--The Netherlands will grant 22 million florins (46 million French francs) in aid in 1980 to Mozambique to help finance the country's recovery, indicated Mr Jan de Koning, Dutch minister for Development Aid, to Mrs Janet Mondlane, widow of the founder of FRELIMO, who traveled to Europe to explain the alarming economic situation of her country. A communique from the Dutch Ministry of Development Aid specified that 16 million florins of this aid will be a loan and 6 million will be a gift. In addition, the Netherlands will open a line of credit for 3 million florins in order to obtain food supplies for the people of Mozambique. During a press conference at The Hague, Mrs Mondlane specified that applying sanctions against Rhodesia caused Mozambique considerable economic losses. She added that her country was studying the prospects for regional economic cooperation with other countries of southern Africa. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 22 Feb 80 p 458] 9479

SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN FISHING COMPANY--Official in Maputo have authorized the formation of a joint Mozambique-Spanish company, which will have an associates Emopesca on the Mozambique side and Pescanova on the Spanish side. The latter company is supplying 13 ships which will operate in Mozambique waters with fishing rights upon payment for licenses, Emopesca is supplying 9 ships. Emopesca has 51 percent of the registered capital and Pescanova, 49 percent. With the formation of this new joint company, there are now three companies of this type in the Mozambique fishing sector; the other two were formed with a Soviet company and a Japanese company. The new company is counting on a catch of 4,000 tons of shrimp and 700 tons of fish this year. Its operational base is located at Beira. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 22 Feb 80 p 458] 9479

POLITICAL PRISONERS--The Lisbon representative of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (opposed to President Samora Machel) sent a telegram to Amnesty International requesting its support in obtaining the release of 39 "political prisoners" currently being held in Mozambique. In this telegram, the resistance movement indicated that it mainly involved political prisoners held without trial for more than 4 years. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 22 Feb 80 p 458]

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BADEA WOOD INDUSTRY LOAN--The administration council of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) approved, at the beginning of March, the grant of a \$10 million loan to the People's Republic of Mozambique to cofinance a project to establish at Manica a sawmill-woodworking industrial complex. The project, which aims at one and the same time to promote light industry and to valorize a national resource, is considered particularly important. It calls for the following operations: installation of an industrial complex including a sawmill, with a capacity of 26,000 m³ per year, and a plant which makes compressed-wood board with a capacity of 20,000 m³ per year; initiation of a program to exploit wood resources by acquiring the equipment and vehicles necessary to fell and transport the lumber; set-up of required adequate infrastructures, such as the highways and railroad tracks to move the lumber out, lodging, social services, water, electricity, etc.; provision of technical assistance both in completing the project and training qualified personnel. The project will be carried out under the tutelage, first of all, of the Ministers of Agriculture and of Public Works and of the National Planning Agency. There are plans to create a public enterprise which ultimately will be responsible for its supervision. The total cost is set at \$40.3 million; Sweden's financial contribution comes to \$18 million. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 14 Mar 80 p 642] 9589

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SOMALIA

BRIEFS

REFUGEE STATISTICS--Because of an EEC contribution, the UNHCR [United National High Commission on Refugees] in January was able to send emergency aid to Somalia in the form of blankets, clothes, toilet articles and tents (for families and dispensaries.) The substantial increase in refugees in this African nation made this aid necessary. According to the most recent statistics, the population of the local reguree camps reportedly numbers 510,000 people, but the government of Mogadishu estimates that 700,000 refugees live outside the camps. The UNHCR plans to open three local offices: one in the Gedo region (where 223,000 refugees have been counted), a second in the Hiran region (where the refugees are estimated at 127,000) and a third in the northwest (108,000 refugees). [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 22 Feb 80 p 454] 9479

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UPPER VOLTA

EFFECTS OF FOREIGN AID, OTHER ASPECTS OF ECONOMY NOTED

Aid-Recipient Mentality Feared

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 12 Mar 80 pp 44-46

[Article by special correspondent Sophie Bessis: "Seeking a New Policy"]

[Text] "You are mistaken, Upper Volta is not a poor country. It has great potential. Our peasants are hardworking. Everyone could have ample food here and lead a normal life. Certainly our per capita GNP is under 200 dollars, but on that money you can live better in Ouagadougou than on 500 dollars in Abidjan."

That is how one of the former ministers of General Lamizana, now an opposition deputy, expressed it to us. A taste for paradox, or the result of a thorough awareness of the facts? An enclaved Sahelian country, categorized by international organizations as one of the poorest in Africa, Upper Volta, like its neighbors, is seeking the quickest way of emerging from underdevelopment.

Can it have found it in the interest shown it the last few years by the donor countries and organizations of the industrialized world? FAC [Aid and Cooperation Fund], EDF, IBRD, IDA, WHO, UNDP, etc. A layman gets lost in the profusion of initials spread in large letters across every construction site in the country, or over just about all the development projects featured in the Plan. Only the initiated can possibly know what the Land Rover with the magic legend "Oncho Project" on its door belongs to. This is the project for combatting onchocerciasis (river blindness) in West Africa, with its main office, in Ouagadougou, occupying an entire building and employing 500 people, mostly experts from all over.

Situated in the heart of the region affected by the great drought at the beginning of the seventies, Ouagadougou has in fact become a turntable for all those who have become aware of the need for massive aid to the disaster-stricken zone. As for Upper Volta, it has attracted all the lenders, who seem to see it as the ideal country to help: it is exposed to the danger of

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drought, it produces no oil, the majority rural population is reputedly industrious, the regime is a democratic one, and that makes it possible, a rare thing in Africa, to reconcile economic interests and human rights -- and foreign policy is discreetly pro-western. A dream, in short. So much so that today the country does not lack for funds, which moreover weigh only moderately on its foreign indebtedness. Indeed, considering its annual per capita income, the Voltan state essentially enjoys subsidies and loans under specially favorable conditions which make them much the same as gifts.

The Other Side of the Coin

Thus the World Bank's commitments, in the form of interest-free loans, have far exceeded 100 million dollars (over 20 billion CFA francs) during the decade just concluded, and have been used to finance the most varied operations: from road construction to the promotion of the skilled craftsman class. The Volta Valleys Development Authority, whose objective is to absorb the demographic surplus of the Mossi plateau by settling 16,000 families in the Volta river valleys between now and the end of the century, has received 8 billion CFA francs in subsidies since the operation started, in 1972, of which nearly one-half comes from France and nearly one-quarter from the Netherlands.

However, all is not going as well as it might, despite (or because of) the relative ease in finding money. The fact is, every coin has its other side. The political class is on the whole dissatisfied, and many cadre criticize with increasing frankness the negative aspects of foreign aid. The Voltan masses, for their part, are divided between those who hardly see any concrete results from it and those who expect everything of it. All are in agreement in saying that whoever the donor is, no aid is disinterested, but everyone puts up with it: development is a realistic thing and there is no philanthropy in the relations between states. So it is not on those grounds that the lenders are criticized, but rather because they give the government an extremely narrow margin of choice. Many officials admit that if they want to get financing, they have to accept projects just as they are worked out by foreign experts, who are heavily involved in development planning.

An additional irritation in this country so deeply concerned about democracy: the Plan has not yet been approved by the Parliament, and so foreign resources escape the supervision of elected officials. Most of the productive investments are also excluded from the budget and escape all supervision there, too. Moreover, a good part of foreign financing is used to pay for increasingly numerous studies and an omnipresent technical aid. There are sometimes up to 15 studies for the same project, each costing several tens of millions; there are 300 families in the Dutch community alone in Ouagadougou. "The donors have to get their money back," states with fatalism the director of an important state organization.

Foreign experts swarm everywhere. "They are the ones who make the rules," a disillusioned staff member of the AVV (Volta Valleys Development Authority) confided to us. Though this view is an exaggerated one, the citizens'

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feeling of annoyance is real: they see themselves as deprived of responsibility to the advantage of foreigners who often fail to recognize the facts about the country and receive salaries four or five times higher than they do. Worse: some productive programs have had to be cut off for lack of funds, but the actual number of experts is never reduced. The situation is tolerated all the better in that around 100 senior Voltan staff are now being paid to do nothing: a subtle hitch in democracy in a country where direct repression is non-existent, appointment to a position is "forgotten" for these opponents, some of whom have thus been "unattached" for two years.

Others contest the usefulness of various projects: some duplicate or start without taking into account what already exists. Some, lastly, are far from being priorities. The fact is that each donor country or organization has its own policy and does not want to be mixed up with others: competition is sometimes keen between lenders. "We are not getting involved in the Banfora zone," the representative of an international organization specified, "the EDF has taken on the agriculture of that region." Despite statements stressing the need to coordinate aid, a dangerous spirit of parochialism prevails in this domain; everyone wants to plant his flag on "his own" achievement.

In the face of this grabbing, common knowledge to those in office and to the opposition alike, the government is not responding. Seeking foreign financial and technical assistance seems, on the contrary, to have become one of its main concerns, as if each new loan constituted a victory in itself. Today, however, contrary to the past, the priority issue is no longer attracting aid but getting control over it and directing it better. The Voltans have quickly become used to receiving foreign aid at all levels: the United States "donates" sorghum, of which the sacks, with the star-spangled banner imprint, are often seen in the villages; UNICEF bores wells and supplies pumps to many villages; France "assists" in the development of cotton production, etcetera. An aid-recipient mentality is spreading fast throughout all strata of the population. "The lenders are developing an infantile complex in us," asserts a well-known politician.

Distrust and Dissatisfaction

Because this opinion has a lot of truth in it, talk has begun to be heard of late about "grassroots development," adaptation to the environment, and participation by the population. Having no motivation, the latter, indeed, views with more or less indifference, even some hostility, the progress the city people or the "expatriates" are supposed to be bringing to it. But the undertaking is not an easy one, because political restriction bears heavily upon economic options. Excessive centralization of power appears to the leaders to be the surest way of keeping it, and many are reluctant to slacken the reins: would not less strictly controlled development, autonomy with greater choice left up to the beneficiaries, cast doubt on the omnipotence of the state? There is hesitation at the top, while at the World Bank, FAC, or elsewhere, "evaluations" of the "impact" of development on the population are multiplying. A matter of fashion....

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Some 200 miles away from Ouagadougou, one's gaze travels over the monotonous savannah landscape traversed by a rough trail leading to Ouahigouya, the capital of Yatenga province. Suddenly the eye is caught by a broad splash of brilliant green: feverish activity prevails in the few hectares squeezed in between the road and the backwater. Men and women are watering the flawlessly alined squares, planted with the most varied truck farm produce. Bicycles and motorized cycles crowd the village streets. Yet cattle wintering is long since over and the storehouses are full. But the people here keep on working. With very modest foreign aid, some Voltan instructors teaching them a few elements of agricultural intensification, and the dogged perseverance of a local man, who despite his diplomas has not "gone up" to Ouagadougou, the peasants have revived the traditional group solidarity: they are digging wells, building a few indispensable infrastructures, increasing and diversifying foodstuff production. Fields here, stock raising there, the whole department is caught up in the contagion.

Where to Begin?

"It is only now that we really need money," we were told by a man known here as just Mr Bernard, and who, untiring, started his organization 10 years ago. "The people of the region have really taken themselves in hand; they want to increase their income and are well aware that they are the main artisans of their improved condition. They do not want gifts, but are prepared to repay loans. In that way, the fruits of their labor truly belong to them."

Money, more intensive techniques for improving production -- nobody underestimates the need for them. But is that really the place to start? The political will for balanced development is an obvious prerequisite. Otherwise foreign cooperation will end up as more of an alienating factor than real aid.

Consumer Goods, Services Flourishing

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 12 Mar 80 p 46

[Article by F.H: "The Money Makers"]

[Text] "How is business?" "Mine is excellent, how about yours?" The speaker is a Syrian, established for over 25 years in...Ouagadougou, the capital of a state with a GNP per inhabitant (160 dollars in 1978) that is one of the world's weakest. Visibly pleased with his latest acquisition, an airconditioned luxury Mercedes, he introduces himself as proprietor of several bakeries and food stores.

It is a fact. Business can be good in Upper Volta, and is sometimes so profitable that some people are able to buy themselves private aircraft. Other success stories are less spectacular but every bit as real. For example, that of African self-made men, who, starting from nothing, and without having any formal education, successfully launched out into trade. One is a wholesaler in hardware and building materials. Do not be taken in

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by his modest appearance and his uncomfortable office at the back of a non-descript courtyard full of cackling fowls. And do not be surprised if he greets you with a big wad of banknotes in his hand. He employs about 60 people, imports from all over the world, including Japan, and has a turnover of several million CFA francs every year.

His best customers? The religious congregations. His biggest problems? Defaulters, the reluctance of bankers to open more than one credit account at a time, and transportation difficulties -- sometimes you have to wait over 3 months for merchandise unloaded in Abidjan to be claimed in Ouagadougou. But invoices are payable within 90 days.

What does it matter! Those are the risks of the job, and the vitality of Voltan tradespeople is such that some of the international scale import-export companies, though in a better position to take advantage of favorable prices, are getting worried. Especially since they are subject to customs controls that they consider stricter than those imposed on their competitors.

Even though transportation problems have a large part of the country's economic life paralyzed, trucking agents themselves are doing well. They make up for the serious inadequacies in railroad traffic. A truck...and off they go adventuring, first taking care to make an agreement with competitors to "share" the network. It is indeed a case of adventuring. For representatives of "the authorities," particularly supercilious, are constantly stopping the trucks to exact, under pretext of some administrative infraction or other, a nice little round sum: 30,000 CFA francs, 50,000 CFA francs, sometimes more. This is a common practice throughout the region. Are not some Malian colleagues complaining of being subjected to up to 52 inspections on the road from Bamako to Lome?

But the trade activity moving along, so to speak, most briskly, is that of the bicycle sellers. People like to repeat the catch-phrase: "Upper Volta is Africa's Holland." Everywhere, in town as in the villages, gleaming bicycles trundle along in their dozens, at the mercy of any speeding car. But it is motorcycles, in spite of what they cost, that figure in the Voltans' dreams. At the price of heavy indebtedness, or with the money sent by some relative working abroad, they try to get one of these machines, to which their wives -- in annoyance -- have no hesitation in applying epithets: "My husband would..." Though the most basic model is available at 120,000 CFA francs, the ones most highly regarded (usually Japanese) are around 300,000 CFA francs.

So money is to be found in Upper Volta. It circulates essentially in the sector of services, known to be superabundant in the Third World. Is that regrettable? The real issue perhaps is to find a way to channel it into the coffers of the state.

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ZAIRE

BRIEFS

PORTUGUESE RESIDENTS--According to the Portuguese Press Agency, which cites official Zairian sources, President Mobutu is allegedly planning to place 100,000 Portuguese in Zaire. In the summer, President Eanes is to go to Zaire to sign cultural cooperation and technical agreements. There are already 30,000 persons of Portuguese origin in Zaire, or 7,000 families. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 7 Mar 80 p 576]

ALUMINUM TALKS WITH EUROPEANS--The plan for an aluminum plant in Zaire is being discussed again. The Alusuisse Company will engage in talks next July with European aluminum manufacturers, especially West Germans and Norwegians in order to establish a consortium to construct a plant in Zaire. Alusuisse will be at the head of it. This was learned on 19 March following the visit of a Zairian delegation to Switzerland. The construction of a raw aluminum plant in Zaire has been the subject of discussions between Alusuisse and Zairian authorities since 1973. This project is connected with the much larger project of the development of the Banana port zone. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 28 Mar 80 p 757]

BAS ZAIRE-SHABA RAILWAY--An official communique distributed on 19 March in Kinshasa indicates that Zairian authorities are planning to link Bas Zaire with Shaba by rail. This link will depend on existing lines and will be connected to various projects already under way, particularly the 800-meter railway/highway bridge that the Japanese are constructing over the Zaire River above the port of Matadi. It will permit Zaire to export ores and by-products, especially copper, without the loan of the lines currently used from Lobito (Angola), Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), and Beira (Mozambique). [Excerpt] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 28 Mar 80 p 757]

COFFEE EXPORTS DOWN--Some 62,800 tons of coffee were exported from Zaire during the last campaign compared with 81,850 tons in 1978. These figures were given out by the Zairian Coffee Office (OZACAF) which lays this decrease to fraud and to the political situation in Uganda. Some of the coffee produced in the northeast of the country goes through Uganda and is exported through Mombasa (Kenya). This caused the loss of 252 million French francs. Exports of coffee should increase in 1980, OZACAF estimates, because of organization and cleanup efforts in the market. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 28 Mar 80 p 757]

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